

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1241

Introduced by Assembly Member Parra

February 21, 2003

An act to add Section 128021 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to health professions.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1241, as introduced, Parra. Nursing education scholarships.

Existing law provides for a nursing education scholarship program, administered by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.

This bill, in addition, would require the office to establish a nursing education scholarship program to assist students residing in the central valley, as defined, who are seeking an associate degree or bachelor of science degree in nursing. The bill would authorize the office to expend money for the program when funds become available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to pay for tuition and textbooks of scholarship recipients.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

(1) There is a severe shortage of registered nurses in California. Currently California ranks 49th out of the 50 states in the number of registered nurses per 100,000 persons. The central valley in the state suffers from the least number of nurses per capita.

(2) To assist in addressing the severe nurse shortage in the central valley, a central valley scholarship program is necessary.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to establish a scholarship program for students taking nursing prerequisite courses or enrolled in California Board of Registered Nursing approved programs for an associate degree or bachelor of science degree in nursing in the central valley.

SEC. 2. Section 128021 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

128021. (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, the office shall establish a separate nursing education scholarship program to assist students residing in the central valley, as defined in paragraph (2), who are seeking an associate degree or bachelor of science degree in nursing.

(2) For purposes of this section, “central valley” means the Counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, and Tulare.

(b) The office may expend money for the program when funds become available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to pay for tuition and textbooks of scholarship recipients.

SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that a special statute is necessary and that a general statute cannot be made applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution, because of unique facts and circumstances applicable to the central valley of the state with respect to a nursing shortage.